

Amendments to the Specification

Please add the following new paragraphs at page 3, between lines 5 and 6:

Accordingly, in one embodiment, the present invention is an intervertebral prosthesis for implantation between adjacent vertebrae of the human spine. The prosthesis comprises a unitary body that is banana-shaped as viewed from above, the body having an exterior surface and an interior surface, the interior surface defining an interior recess; and wherein the unitary body includes upper and lower edges that each form smoothly-sloping surfaces.

In one embodiment, the banana shape of the unitary body includes a front arc that has a first radius of curvature and a back arc that includes a second radius of curvature. The first radius of curvature can be equal to or less than the second radius of curvature. Alternatively, the first radius of curvature can be equal to the second radius of curvature.

In another embodiment, the unitary body defines openings about a circumference of the body. The openings can be evenly spaced about the circumference of the body. The defined openings can be quadrilaterals. The quadrilaterals can be parallelograms. The parallelograms can be rhombuses.